

(11) Publication number:

**0 273 528
A1**

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 87202595.2

(22) Date of filing: 18.12.87

(51) Int. Cl.4: **C07C 49/84**, C07C 45/68,
C07C 149/32, C07C 147/06,
C07C 147/14, C07C 143/86,
C07C 107/06, C07C 79/36,
C07C 97/10, C07D 295/10,
C07C 103/76

(30) Priority: 19.12.86 DE 3643403

(43) Date of publication of application:
06.07.88 Bulletin 88/27

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE

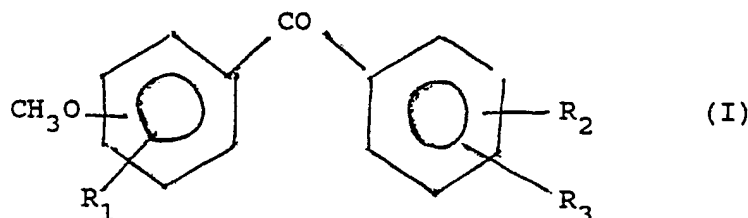
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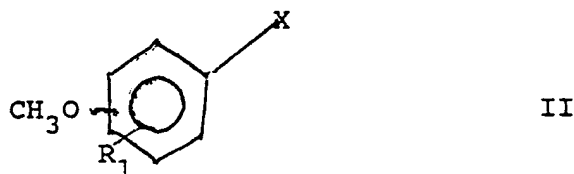
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(54) Benzophenones and their preparation.

(57) Process for the preparation of methoxy benzophenone derivatives of the formula I:

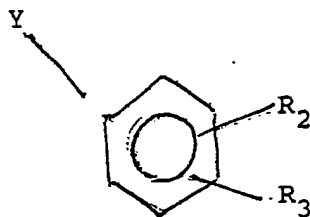


which comprises reacting an anisole derivative of formula II



with a compound of the formula III

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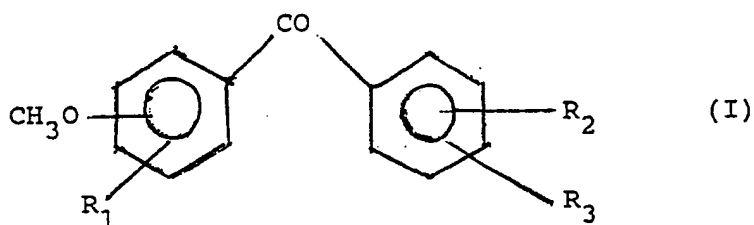
III

wherein one of X and Y represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents the group COCl, or one represents a magnesium halide group MgHal wherein Hal denotes a halogen atom and the other represents COCl or an aldehyde or nitrile group, followed in the last two cases by oxidation or hydrolysis respectively; the substituents R₁, R₂ and R₃ representing a hydrogen or halogen atom or various organic grouping. Certain of the resulting compounds are novel, and are included as such.

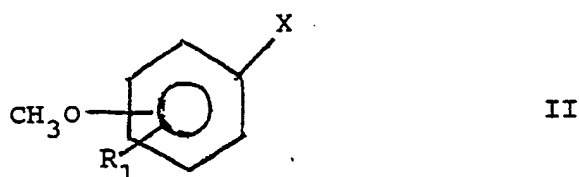
BENZOPHENONES AND THEIR PREPARATION

This invention relates to the preparation of certain substituted benzophenone derivatives, useful inter alia as intermediates in the preparation of agrochemicals, some of which are novel.

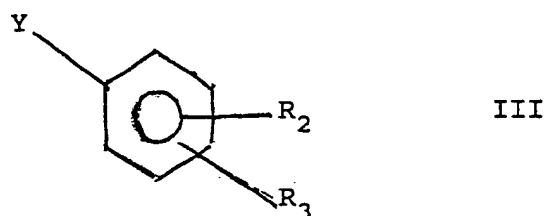
Accordingly, the present invention provides a process for the preparation of methoxy benzophenone derivatives of the formula:-



15 by reacting an anisole derivative of formula II

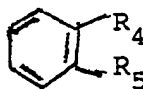


25 with a compound of formula III



wherein one of X and Y represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents the group COCl; or one represents a magnesium halide group MgHal, wherein Hal is a halogen, preferably bromine or iodine, atom, and the other represents COCl or an aldehyde or nitrile group, followed in the last two cases by oxidation or hydrolysis respectively, the substituents R₁, R₂ and R₃ having the following meanings:

R₁ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group; R₂ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group, or together with R₃ represents a bivalent group selected from -(CH₂)_n-, wherein n is 3, 4 or 5; -CH=CH-CH=CH- or



50 wherein R₄ represents O, S, CH₂ or CH₂CH₂ and R₅ represents a covalent bond or, when R₄ is CH₂ or CH₂CH₂ alternatively may represent -O-;

and R₂ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, a nitro or cyano group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₅₋₈ cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈ alkynyl, phenyl, phenylalkenyl, benzyl, C₁₋₁₂ alkoxy, C₁₋₁₂ cycloalkoxy, C₃₋₈ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₈ alkynyloxy, (halo)phenoxy, benzyloxy, C₁₋₁₂ alkyl S(O)_p, phenyl S(O)_p,

benzyl $S(O)_p$, wherein $p=0, 1$ or 2 , C_{1-12} alkylcarbamoyl, phenylcarbamoyl, C_{1-12} alkylsulphamoyl, phenylazo, phenylamino, benzylamino, acylamino, or a heterocyclic group selected from CO-morpholino, piperidino, pyrrole, pyrazole, imidazole, triazole, dioxolane, and dioxane.

The groupings referred to as "optionally substituted" may contain, as substituent(s), any of those substituents customarily employed in the development of pesticidal compounds, and/or the modification of such compounds to influence their structure/activity, persistence, penetration or other property, for example one or more halogen, nitro, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl or alkoxy groups, preferred such substituents being fluorine, chlorine, bromine, methyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy. The alkyl and alkoxy groups may be straight chain or branched, and may contain oxygen or sulphur atoms within their chain.

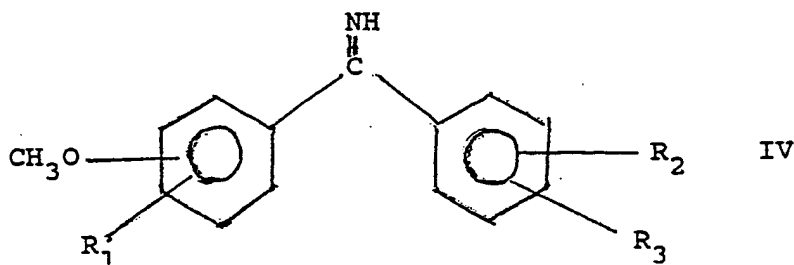
Preferred products are those wherein R_1 represents C_{1-3} alkyl or alkoxy, or a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom; R_3 represents a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine or bromine atom or a methyl or methoxy group, and R_2 has any of the meanings defined above, especially chlorine, phenyl or halophenoxy.

These starting materials of formula II and III are known products, and may themselves be prepared according to established methods or routine adaptations thereof.

When one of X and Y is hydrogen and the other is COCl, the process is a Friedel Crafts reaction and is effected in the presence of a Lewis acid catalyst according to well-established procedures. Suitable such catalysts include $AlCl_3$, $SnCl_4$, $FeCl_3$, $ZnCl_2$, $TiCl_4$, $SbCl_5$ and BF_3 , which are normally used in a molar equivalent amount (based on the acyl chloride). However, it is also possible to use lesser amounts of catalyst at elevated temperatures, suitably under reflux, preferred catalysts under these conditions being $FeCl_3$, I_2 , $ZnCl_2$, iron, copper, strong sulphonic acids such as F_3C-SO_3H , and acidic ion exchange resins such as "Amberlyst" 15 and "Nafion". The reaction can be carried out in a solvent inert under the reaction conditions, for example ethylene or methylene chloride, benzene, decane or solvent mixtures, or in the absence of a solvent, conveniently by employing one of the reactants in excess.

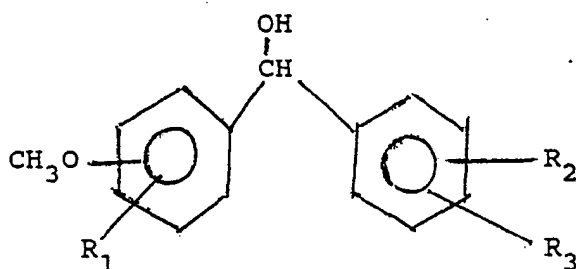
When one of X and Y represents the magnesium halide group $MgHal$, the process is a Grignard reaction and is effected according to well-established procedures. Thus, bromide and iodide are preferred as the magnesium halide, and the reaction is suitably carried out in solution in an anhydrous ether, such as diethyl, dipropyl or dibutyl ether, anisole or tetrahydrofuran. When the magnesium halide is reacted with an acid chloride, i.e. the other of X or Y represents COCl, the process is conveniently carried out in the presence of ferric tris(acetylacetonate) according to the procedure described in Tetrahedron Letters, 25, No 42, pages 4805-8, and yields directly the desired benzophenone product of formula I.

When the magnesium halide is reacted with a nitrile, i.e. the other group X or Y represents CN, the immediate reaction product is an imine of the formula IV:



This intermediate is readily converted to the desired benzophenone derivatives of formula I by acid hydrolysis, suitably using mineral acids such as hydrochloric or sulphuric.

When the magnesium halide is reacted with an aldehyde, i.e. the other group X or Y represents CHO, the immediate reaction product is a tertiary alcohol of the formula V:

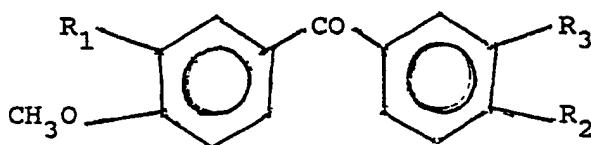


V

This intermediate is readily converted to the desired benzophenone derivatives of formula I by oxidation, suitably using Mn(IV), Mn(VII), Ce(IV) or Cr(VI) derivatives, nitric acid or oxygen in the presence of a catalyst.

The methoxy benzophenones produced according to the process of this invention have a variety of uses, in particular as intermediates in the preparation of pharmaceuticals and fungicides, such as those described in European Patent Application Nos. 84102012 and 86113835.

Certain of these methoxybenzophenones are novel compounds, and as such form a further aspect of this invention. These novel compounds are of formula I defined above, provided that i) R_2 and R_3 do not both represent a hydrogen atom; ii) when R_1 represents a methoxy group, then R_2 and R_3 do not both represent a chlorine atom or methoxy group, and when R_2 represents a hydrogen atom then R_3 does not represent a fluorine atom or a methyl or methoxy group; iii) when R_1 and R_3 both represent a chlorine atom, then R_2 does not represent a hydrogen atom or a methoxy group; iv) when R_1 represents a chlorine atom and R_3 represents a hydrogen atom then R_2 does not represent a methyl group; and v) when R_1 and R_2 each represents a methyl group, then R_3 does not represent a methoxy group. Preferred novel compounds are those of formula VI



VI

wherein R_1 represents a halogen, preferably chlorine or bromine, atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group, suitably containing 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R_3 represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group, suitably containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms; and R_2 represents a phenyl group or one of the meanings defined for R_3 ; subject to the provisos defined above.

Specific individual novel compounds of particular value include 3,4-dimethoxy-4'-chlorobenzophenone and 3,4-dimethoxy-4'-phenylbenzophenone.

The process of this invention, and the preparation of the novel compounds, are further illustrated in the following examples.

Example I 3,4-dimethoxy-4'-chlorobenzophenone

Procedure A

3.0 mol of veratrol was added to a stirred suspension of 3.0 ml aluminium chloride in 3500 ml of methylene-chloride. 3.0 ml of 4-chlorobenzoylchloride was added to the clear solution and the reaction mixture warmed to reflux temperature. After 4-5 hours under stirring, the reaction mixture was poured into 5 l of ice water. The organic phase was separated and the solvent distilled off under vacuum to yield the desired product in 95% purity and m.pt. 113-114°C.

Procedure B

0.005 mol iron dust was added to a stirred mixture of 0.5 mol veratrole and 0.5 mol 4-chlorobenzoylchloride in 200 ml 110/140 petroleum. The reaction mixture was maintained under reflux for 2-3 hours, filtered
 5 hot and cooled to crystallisation in an ice bath, to yield the desired product in 70-80% yield.

Procedure C

10 138.2 g Veratrol was added to a mixture of 133.5 g aluminium chloride and 1500 ml methylene chloride over 20 minutes at 20-25°C. A clear solution is obtained. Cool this slightly and then drip into it 175.0 g 4-chlorobenzoyl chloride at 20-25°C over a period of 30 minutes. Stir the mixture for 15-18 hours at room temperature then decompose it whilst stirring with 2 litres iced water (1 kg ice and 1 litre water), separate the aqueous phase off and wash with 300 ml methylene chloride. Extract the combined organic phases first
 15 with 300 ml 1.5N caustic soda and then twice more with 400 ml water each. After drying over magnesium sulphate, vacuum off and centrifuge off the solvent in a water jet vacuum in the rotary evaporator until a residue is left. The crude produce was extracted with about 500 ml petroleum 80/110, vacuum off, wash with petroleum 80/110 and dry in air.
 Yield: 249 g (90% of theory); melting point 109-111°C

Procedure D

25 Mix together 175 g 4-chlorobenzoyl chloride, 138g Veratrol, 75 g "Amberlyst" 15 and 300 ml decane and boil under reflux for about 2½ hours while stirring. Decent the hot solution off from the catalyst, stir the catalyst with 50 ml hot decane and decant again. Seed the benzophenone solution and cool it slowly while stirring. Draw off the precipitated benzophenone and wash it with 50 ml cold decane.
 Yield after drying at 50°C is 250 g crystallised compound (90% of theory); melting point 109-110°C.

Procedure E

30 0.2 mol (35 g) 4-chloro-benzoylchloride, 0.3 mol (41.4 g) veratrol and 0.5 g copper powder are stirred for 4 h at 200°C while a steady stream of nitrogen is bubbled through the reaction mixture. After cooling
 35 down the mixture to 100°C, 200 ml of toluene are added and the hot solution separated from the copper powder by filtration. 200 ml of 5% aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate are added to the filtrate and the mixture is then stirred at 80°C for 1 h. After separation of the layers the organic layer is washed with 100 ml of water and dried. First the toluene then at 140°C unreacted veratrol (13.85 g) is removed using a rotary evaporator. The crude product is initially obtained as a viscous oil which on treatment with 100 ml of
 40 methanol readily crystallises. The mixture is chilled and the product filtered by suction, washed with ice-cold methanol and dried.
 Yield: 44.3 g = 80%; mp. 110-111°C.
 From mother liquor another 1.05 g = 2% of the product can be isolated.

Example 23-ethoxy-4-methoxybenzophenone

50 a) 3-ethoxy-4-methoxydiphenylcarbinol
 Pour a little ether over 3.4 g (0.14 mol) magnesium chips then drip in 22 g (0.14 mol) bromobenzene dissolved in 100 ml abs. ether. After this heat under reflux for ½ hour. Then drip in 20.7 g (0.115 mol) 3-ethoxy-4-methoxybenzaldehyde dissolved in 50 ml abs. ether. Leave to stand for 24 hours, then heat to reflux for another hour. Stir the cooled contents of the flask into water/hydrochloric acid and add a further
 55 200 ml ether. Separate the ether phase and wash twice with water, then dry and concentrate. 26.6 g of the carbinol are obtained.

b) 3-ethoxy-4-methoxybenzophenone

To 6.6 g (0.024 mol) of the carbinol obtained according to a) add 27 ml 10% sulphuric acid, 25 ml glacial acetic acid and then 5 g (0.017 mol) potassium dichromate. Stir the mixture for an hour at 50°C and then add 300 ml water. Separate off the precipitated product, wash with water, then triturate in a little methanol.

5 Renew the methanol twice.

Yield: 4 g; melting point 122-125°C.

Example 3

10

3,4-dimethoxy-3'-trifluoromethylbenzophenone

Cover 3.65 g (0.15 mol) magnesium chips with 30 ml abs. ether. Dissolve 33.8 g (0.15 mol) 3-bromo-trifluoromethylbenzene in 70 ml abs. ether, then add 10 ml of this solution to the magnesium ether mixture and start the reaction with a grain of iodine. Drip the rest of the 3-bromo-trifluoromethylbenzene in such a way that the reaction keeps going. Then heat to reflux for a $\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Then add 21.2 g (0.13 mol) 3,4-dimethoxybenzonitrile in 200 ml abs. ether in batches. A violent reaction will occur each time. Separate off the solid produced during the reaction. Heat the ether solution to reflux for two more hours, then concentrate it and heat it under reflux together with the previously separated substance with a mixture of ethanol and hydrochloric acid for two hours. Concentrate to dryness and recrystallise the residue out of methanol.

15 Yield: 21.9 g; melting point 84-86°C

Analysis: Calculated: C: 61.9%; H: 4.19%

Found: C: 61.82%; H: 4.13%

25 Following procedures similar to those described above, including the use of other Friedel-Crafts catalysts, such as iodine or trifluoromethane sulphonic acid, and also various acidic ion exchangers such as "Lewatite" Sp 1080, "Dowex" 50 w x 4, "Nafion", "Amberlyst" 15, there were synthesised the compounds listed in the Tables below.

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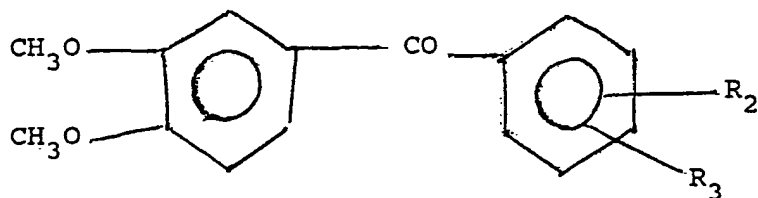
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TABLE I

Compounds of the formula:


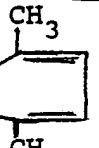







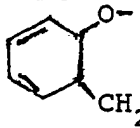
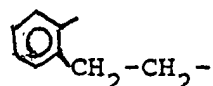
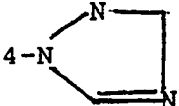
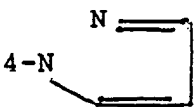



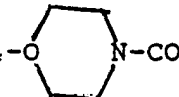
Compound Number	R ₂	R ₃	M. Pt. (°)
1	4-Cl	H	110-112
2	3-Cl	H	96-98
3	2-Cl	H	138-141
4	3,4-CH=CH-CH=CH-		119-121
5	2-F	H	84
6	4-CH ₃ O	H	98-100
7	4-CH ₃	H	124-126
8	3-Cl	4-Cl	92-98
9	3-CH ₃	H	98-101
10	3-NO ₂	H	120-126
11	3-CH ₃ O	4-Br	144-148
12	3-CH ₃ O	H	82-84
13	4-Br	H	116-119
14	4-	H	117-120
15	4-	H	oil
16	4-(CH ₃) ₂ CH	H	oil
17	4-C ₂ H ₅	H	103-105
18	4-C(CH ₃) ₃	H	85-86
19	2-Cl	4-Cl	134-136
20	3-CH ₃	4-CH ₃	88-89
21	3-Cl	5-Cl	140-146
22 (Ex. 3)	3-CF ₃	H	84-86
23	4-(4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄)-	H	166-169
24	4-CF ₃	H	111-113

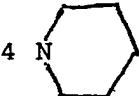






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	Compound	R_2	R_3	M. Pt.
	Number			(°)
10	25	4-I	H	118-123
	26	3-Cl	4-F	119-120
	27	4-C ₂ H ₅ O	H	90-95
15	28	4-n-C ₅ H ₁₁ O	H	85
	29	4-CF ₃ O	H	Resin
	30	4-CH ₃ S	H	113-114
20	31	4-CO ₂ N(CH ₃) ₂	H	148-151
	32	3,4-CH ₂ -CH ₂ -CH ₂ -CH ₂ -		B. Pt.
				(0.07mbar)
				210-220
25	33	3,4-CH ₂ -CH ₂ -CH ₂ -		B. Pt.
				(0.5mbar)
				215-220
30	34	3,4  CH ₂ -		159-163
	35	4-NO ₂	H	167-170
	36	4-C ₂ H ₅ S	H	108
	37	4-C ₂ H ₅ SO	H	129
35	38	4-C ₂ H ₅ SO ₂	H	141
	39	4-(4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -O)-	H	120-122
	40	4-n-C ₅ H ₁₁	H	70-73
40	41	4-(4-CH ₃ -C ₆ H ₄ -O)	H	108-112
	42	4-CH(CH ₃)C ₂ H ₅	H	195-230
	43	4-(CH ₃) ₂ CHCH ₂	H	B. Pt.
				(0.07mbar)
45				195-210
	44	4-(4-C ₂ H ₅ -C ₆ H ₄)	H	102
	45	4-n-C ₃ H ₇	H	B. Pt.
50				(0.1mbar)
				180-210
	46	4-(4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄)	H	116

55

Compound Number	R_2	R_3	M. Pt. (°)
47	3-(C ₆ H ₅ -O)-	H	oil
48	4-(4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄ -O)	H	159
49	4-n-C ₃ H ₇ O	H	
50	4-n-C ₄ H ₉ O	H	
51	4-OCH ₂ -CH ₂ -O-CH ₃	H	
52	3-(4-Cl-C ₄ H ₆ -O)	H	oil
53	4-n-C ₅ H ₁₁	H	59-61
54	4-(2-CH ₃ -4-Cl-C ₆ H ₃ -O)	H	114-116
55	4-(2-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -O)	H	137-139
56	4-(CH ₃ O-(CH ₂) ₃)	H	oil
57	4-(4-CN-C ₆ H ₄ -O)	H	149-152
58	4-(3-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -O)	H	80-83
59	4-N=N-C ₆ H ₅	H	
60	4-CH ₃ OCH ₂	H	
61	4-n-C ₄ H ₉ -NH-CO	H	139-139
62	4-NH-CO-  -Cl	H	
63	4-N- 	H	
64	4-N- 	H	168-171
65	4-CN	H	139
66	4-S-CH ₂ -  -Cl	H	175-176
67	4-CO-NH-C ₆ H ₅	H	137-138
68	4-CONH-CH ₂ -C ₆ H ₅	H	194-196
69	3-N- 	H	
70	4-NH-C ₆ H ₅	H	
71	4-NH-CH ₂ -C ₆ H ₅	H	
72	4-CO-N(CH ₃)-n-C ₄ H ₉	H	oil
73	4-  -C ₂ H ₅	H	95-98

Compound Number		R_2	R_3	M. Pt. (°)
74	4	 — $n-C_7H_{15}$	H	95-96
75	3,4			100-103
76	3,4			95-105
77		4- $n-C_7H_{15}$	H	oil
78		4- $n-C_8H_{17}$	H	64-65
79		3- CH_3O	4- CH_3O	144
80			H	170-190
81			H	124-126
82		4- $(CH_3)_2N-CO-$	H	oil
83		4- SO_2-  -Cl	H	157-158
84		4- CH_2O- 	H	oil
85		4- OCH_2- 	H	163
86		4-O  N-CO	H	oil
87		4- $OCH_2-CH=CH_2$	H	
88		4- $OCH_2-C\equiv CH$	H	
89		4- $(CH_3)_2NSO_2O-$	H	
90		4- CF_2HO-	H	
91		4- $C_6H_5(CH_2)_3-CO-NH-$	H	

Compound Number	R ₂	R ₃	M.Pt. (°)
92	3-C ₆ H ₅	4-CH ₃ O	127-129
93	4-CF ₃ -CH ₂ -O	H	oil
94	4 	H	130-133
95	3-C ₆ H ₅	H	
96	4 CHF ₂ -CF ₂ -CH ₂ O-	H	oil
97	4 	H	
98	4 C ₆ H ₅ -CH=CH-	H	
99	4 n-C ₃ H ₇ - 	H	
100	4 	H	
101	4-(4-F-C ₆ H ₄ -O)-	H	88-91
102	4-(4-Br-C ₆ H ₄ -S)-	H	127-129
103	4-CHFCl-CF ₂ -O-	H	
104	4-n-C ₃ H ₇ -CH=CH-	H	
105	4-CHF ₂ -CF ₂ -O-	H	oil
106	4-  -S	H	145-152
107	4 	H	
108	4 	H	
109	4-(C ₂ H ₅ O) ₂ CH	H	
110	4-(4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -CH ₂)-	H	


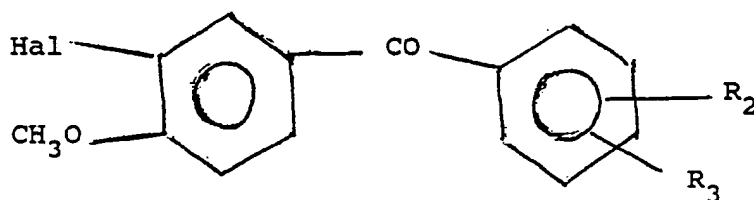
Compound Number	R_2	R_3	M.Pt. (°)
111	4- 	H	
112	4-(4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -O-CH ₂)-	H	
113	4-(4-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -S-CH ₂ -	H	

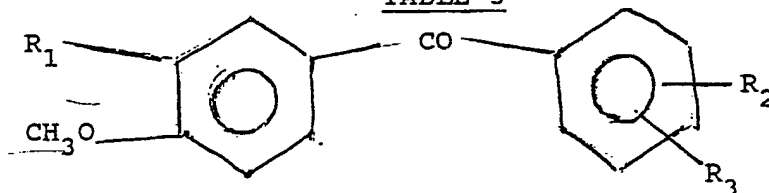
TABLE 2

Compounds of the formula



Compound Number	Hal	R_2	R_3	M.Pt. (°C)
114	Cl	4-Cl	H	115-118
115	Cl	H	H	77-79
116	Cl	3-CH ₃	H	102-104
117	Br	H	H	97
118	Br	3-Br	4-CH ₃ O	173
119	Br	4-CH ₃ O	H	oil
120	Br	3-Cl	4-CH ₃ O	181
121	Br	3-CH ₃	4-CH ₃ O	142
122	Br	3-CH ₃	4-CH ₃	88-89
123	Br	4-CH ₃	H	93-98
124	Br	4-Cl	H	100-112
125	Br	4-n-C ₅ H ₁₁	H	
126	I	H	H	oil
127	I	4-C ₆ H ₅	H	
128	I	4-Cl	H	

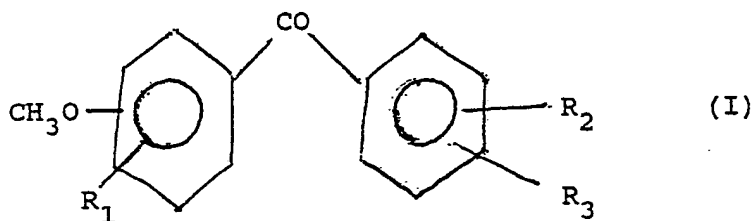
TABLE 3



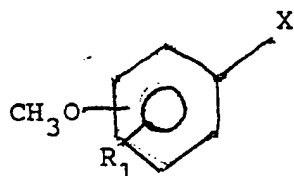
Compound Number	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	M. Pt. (°C)
129	CH ₃	H	H	oil
130	CH ₃	3-CH ₃	4-CH ₃ O	oil
131	CH ₃	4-Cl	H	112-116
132	CH ₃	4-CH ₃	H	71-73
133	CH ₃	3-CH ₃	H	57-61
134	CH ₃	4-(CH ₃) ₃ C	H	71-73
135	CH ₃	3-Cl	4-Cl	100
136	CH ₃	4-C ₆ H ₅ O	H	58-60
137	CH ₃	3-CH ₃	4-CH ₃	196-197
138	CH ₃	4-C ₆ H ₅	H	
139	3-C ₂ H ₅	H	H	75
140	3-n-C ₃ H ₇	H	H	oil
141	3-i-C ₃ H ₇	H	H	Resin
142	3-OC ₂ H ₅	H	H	122-125
143	3-OC ₂ H ₅	4-Cl	H	
144	H	4-CH ₃ O	H	144
145	H	3-CH ₃	4-NO ₂	115-123

Claims

1. Process for the preparation of methoxy benzophenone derivatives of the formula I:

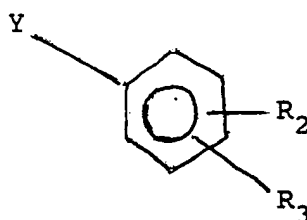


which comprises reacting an anisole derivative of formula II



II

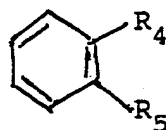
with a compound of the formula III



III

wherein one of X and Y represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents the group COCl, or one represents a magnesium halide group MgHal wherein Hal denotes a halogen atom and the other represents COCl or an aldehyde or nitrile group, followed in the last two cases by oxidation or hydrolysis respectively; the substituents R₁, R₂ and R₃ having the following meanings:

R₁ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group; R₃ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy group, or together with R₂ represents a bivalent group selected from -(CH₂)_n wherein n is 3, 4 or 5, -CH=CH-CH=CH- or



wherein R₄ represents O, S, CH₂ or CH₂CH₂ and R₅ represents a covalent bond or when R₄ is CH₂ or CH₂CH₂ alternatively may represent O; and R₂ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, a nitro or cyano group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂alkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₅₋₈cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈ alkynyl, phenyl, phenylalkenyl, benzyl, C₁₋₁₂ alkoxy, C₁₋₁₂cycloalkoxy, C₃₋₈ alkenyloxy, C₃₋₈ alkynyloxy, (halo)phenoxy, benzyloxy, C₁₋₁₂ alkyl S(O)_p, phenyl S(O)_p, benzyl S(O)_p, wherein p=0, 1 or 2, C₁₋₁₂ alkylcarbamoyl, phenylcarbamoyl, C₁₋₁₂alkylsulphamoyl, phenylazo, phenylamino, benzylamino, acylamino, or a heterocyclic group selected from CO-morpholino, piperidino, pyrrole, pyrazole, imidazole, triazole, dioxolane, and dioxane.

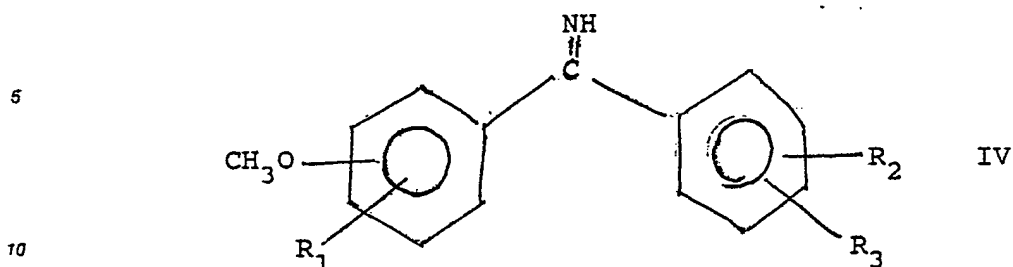
2. Process as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of X and Y is hydrogen, the other represents COCl, and the reaction is effected in the presence of a Lewis-acid catalyst.

3. Process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the catalyst is selected from AlCl₃, SnCl₄, FeCl₃, ZnCl₂, TiCl₄, SbCl₅, BF₃, iodine, copper and iron, and the reaction is carried out in an inert organic solvent.

4. Process as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of X and Y is MgHal, wherein Hal represents bromine or iodine, and the reaction is carried out in an anhydrous ether solvent.

5. Process as claimed in claim 4 wherein the other of X and Y represents the group COCl and the reaction is effected in the presence of ferric tris(acetylacetonate).

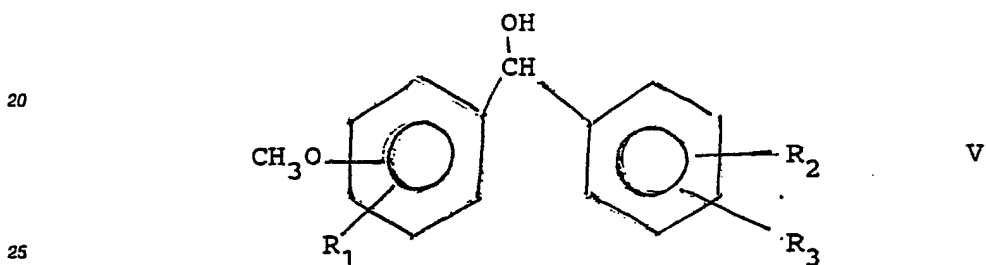
6. Process as claimed in claim 4 wherein the other of X and Y represents CN, and the intermediate reaction product of formula IV:



is hydrolysed by a mineral acid.

7. Process as claimed in claim 4 wherein the other of X and Y represents the aldehyde group CHO, and the intermediate reaction product of formula V:

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is oxidised to a benzophenone of formula I by an oxidant selected from Mn (IV), Mn (VII), Ce (IV), Cr (VI), nitric acid and oxygen in the presence of a catalyst.

8. Methoxybenzophenones of formula I as defined in claim 1 when produced by a process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

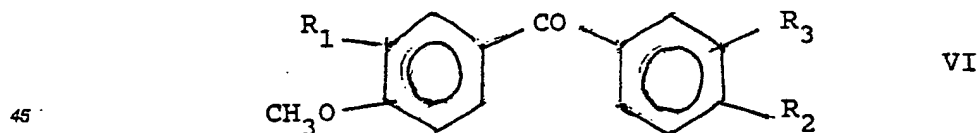
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9. As novel compounds, methoxybenzophenones of the formula I defined in claim 1, provided that i) R₂ and R₃ do not both represent a hydrogen atom; ii) when R₁ represents a methoxy group, then R₂ and R₃ do not both represent a chlorine atom or methoxy group, and when R₂ represents a hydrogen atom then R₃ does not represent a fluorine atom or a methyl or methoxy group; iii) when R₁ and R₃ both represent a chlorine atom then R₂ does not represent a hydrogen atom or a methoxy group; iv) when R₁ represents a chlorine atom and R₃ represents a hydrogen atom then R₂ does not represent a methyl group; and v) when R₁ and R₂ each represents a methyl group, then R₃ does not represent a methoxy group.

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10. As novel compounds, methoxybenzophenones of the formula VI

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wherein R₁ represents a halogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group; R₃ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group; and R₂ represents a phenyl or halophenoxy group or one of the meanings defined for R₃; subject to the provisos defined in claim 9.

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11. Compounds as claimed in claim 10 wherein R₁ represents a chlorine or bromine atom or a C₁₋₃alkyl or alkoxy group; R₃ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or a methyl or methoxy group; and R₂ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom, a C₁₋₈ alkyl or alkoxy group, or a phenyl or chlorophenoxy group.

12. 3,4-dimethoxy-4'-chlorobenzophenone.

13. 3,4-dimethoxy-4'-phenylbenzophenone.

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14. 3,4-dimethoxy-4'-(4'-chlorophenoxy)-benzophenone.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 87202595.2
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	US - A - 3 983 176 (OSAMU YAMADA et al.) * Columns 1,2 *	1-3,8, 10	C 07 C 49/84 C 07 C 45/68 C 07 C 149/32 C 07 C 147/06 C 07 C 147/14 C 07 C 143/86
X	DE - A1 - 3 120 747 (CASSELLA) * Claim 2; page 5, lines 6-9; page 6, lines 5-15 *	1-3,8	C 07 C 107/06 C 07 C 79/36 C 07 C 97/10 C 07 D 295/10 C 07 C 103/76 C 07 C 121/76
A	DE - A1 - 2 806 563 (HOECHST) * Claim 1; examples 2,6,7 *	1,8	
A	US - A - 4 124 726 (YASUHIKO HAMAZAKI et al.) * Abstract; column 2, lines 27-68 *	1-3,8	
A	DE - B - 1 139 111 (ROHM & HAAS) * Claim 1 *	1,8	
A	US - A - 3 907 837 (FRANZ EFFENBERGER et al.) * Claims 1,2; examples 3,8-10 *	1,2,8	
A	CESARE FERRI "Reaktionen der organischen Synthese", 1978 GEORG THIEME VERLAG, Stuttgart * Pages 64, 314, 324 *	1-4,6,	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 22-03-1988	Examiner REIF
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 87202595.2
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	<p>DE - A1 - 2 707 102 (SHIONOGI)</p> <p>* Claims; examples 1,5-9,13, 14,24,26,28,29 *</p> <p>-----</p>	1,6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
VIENNA		22-03-1988	REIF
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			